

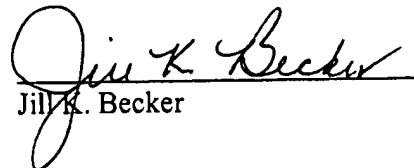
**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE  
EXAMINING GROUP 2186**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: Curran et al. Confirmation No.: 9989  
Serial No.: 10/602,159 Group Art Unit: 2186  
Filed: 06/24/2003 Examiner: Hetul B. Patel  
Title: AN EFFICIENT METHOD FOR COPYING AND CREATING BLOCK-LEVEL  
INCREMENTAL BACKUPS OF LARGE FILES AND SPARSE FILES

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with  
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Jill K. Becker

Date of Signature: January 24, 2006.

To: Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**Response To Office Action Under Rule 116**

Dear Sir:

This Response to Office Action is being submitted in reply to the Final Office Action  
mailed November 3, 2005 for the above-referenced patent application.

Amendments to the claims begin on page 2 of this Response.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this Response.

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- HBP  
02/02/2006